

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4627
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1018

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, LY, EG
SUBJ: DAMAGE FROM EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTION

1. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES ON THE CASUALTIES AND
MATERIAL DAMAGE SUFFERED BY LIBYA DURING THE JULY 19-24
MILITARY CLASHES WITH EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ARE NOW
SURFACING. WHILE THE EGYPTIANS CLAIM TO HAVE INFLICTED
ONE THOUSAND CASUALTIES ON LIBYA'S ARMED FORCES AND
LOCAL RUMORS IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY SUGGEST "HIGH"
CASUALTIES, EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH CLAIMS. A
RELIABLE SOURCE FROM THE INDIAN EMBASSY INFORMS EMBASSY
POL OFFICER THAT INDIAN DOCTORS IN TRIPOLI REPORT
TREATING ONLY 100 BATTLE CASUALTIES. PRESUMABLY, MORE
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SERIOUS CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN TREATED IN BENGHAZI
HOSPITALS.

2. MIDDLE EAST MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT WHO VISITED
TOBRUQ AND MU'SAID TO SURVEY DAMAGE TOLD EMB POL OFF.
RESULTS WERE "DISAPPOINTING." SOURCE CLAIMS DAMAGE TO
ABEL NASSER AIR BASE NEAR TOBRUQ CONSISTED OF THREE

CRATERS ON MAIN RUNWAY, STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, BASE COMMANDER'S HOME AND ONE HANGAR CONTAINING PRIVATE CESSNA. CORRESPONDENT STATED THAT IN VILLAGE OF MU'SAID (VILLAGE CONSISTS OF ONE STREET AND A FEW BUILDINGS), LOCAL CLINIC WAS BADLY DAMAGED. LIBYANS ACCOMPANYING CORRESPONDENT ALLEGED THAT TWO HUNDRED HOMES SURROUNDING SEVERAL NEARBY OASES WERE ALSO DESTROYED.

3. EGYPTIAN CLAIMS AND LIBYAN COUNTER CLAIMS OF CASUALTIES HAVE YET TO BECOME A PART OF CURRENTLY RAGING PROPAGANDA EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO FORMER COMBATANTS. PUBLIC REVELATION OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF LIBYAN DEAD AND WOUNDED WOULD PROBABLY TARNISH IMAGES OF BOTH SADAT, THE ALLEGED AGGRESSOR, AND COL. QADHAFI WHO CAN BE ACCUSED BY HIS CRITICS OF LEADING LIBYANS TO SLAUGHTER. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT NEITHER SIDE WILL BOAST RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR BROTHERN ARABS. IF HIGH LIBYAN CASUALTY COUNT DOES EXIST, QADHAFI APPEARS IN MUCH BETTER POSITION TO ADVANTAGEOUSLY EXPLOIT THE NUMBERS GAME AS THE "VICTIM OF EGYPTIAN AGGRESSION."
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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